



**Press release**

**Atel joins the future commercial electricity company of French-speaking Switzerland**

7 November 2007 – Romande Energie, SIE SA in Renens, les Services industriels de Lausanne (SIL) and the communes of Bussigny-près-Lausanne, Pully, Romanel s/Lausanne, Belmont s/Lausanne and Paudex are the future partners in the new commercial electricity company of French-speaking Switzerland. As announced 19 July 2007 the company will be operational from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008. The validation procedure is currently being carried out by the governing bodies of the future partners.

**An agreement of strategic importance**

The future partners are pleased to announce an important framework agreement with the Atel Group (Aar et Tessin SA d'Electricité) active in the production, trade, distribution and conveyance of electricity. Today the Atel Board of Directors has decided to join the new commercial electricity company of French-speaking Switzerland as electricity provider. The Atel Group will be a shareholder in the new company.

The partnership with Atel is of strategic importance since it provides a supply quota in addition to the respective portfolios of the future partners. This new asset is significant with a view to developing the loyalty of existing customers, since it will provide a guarantee of long-term supply less dependent on an electricity market marked by a high level of volatility. It will also be decisive in terms of the new clients acquisition strategy which will be implemented outside the current area of activity of the companies concerned.

For Atel, participation in this project is entirely compatible with the strategy of the future Pôle Suisse Occidentale, which will eventually include the activities and assets of EOS and Atel.

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